

**TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
June 8th, 2023**

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Charles Elliott, Mayor
Glenn Schagelin
Robert Bilicki
Stephen Joseph
Aileen Joeckel
Robert Williams

Charlie Gobble-Town Clerk

Absent:

Sandie Pulchalski, Vice Mayor

Town Council Meeting

Meeting began at 7:00 PM

Councilman Glen Schagelin prayed.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Charles Elliot.

TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Charles Elliot called the meeting to order.

I. Public comments

Beth Mendez spoke about the need for an AED (Automated external defibrillator). She said the town should have two AED's, one outside the firehall and another by the marina. This could save lives Beth stated.

Beth Mendez said the expense would be between \$1400 to \$1800 per unit.

She said that does not include the waterproof case which runs around \$250.00.

There is also a kit that should be purchased where there is the need to shave a hairy chest.

She said batteries cost approximately \$125.00. They do not require electricity.

The batteries have a long life if they are not used often.

Beth Mendez stated she would be happy to be certified and train people in town to use this device.

Councilman Bob Williams was concerned that the budget was just completed. He wasn't sure the money would be available.

Beth said she also spoke to the fire department regarding the need for an AED. She said maybe they would be interested in purchasing one for the town.

Chris Wardius spoke about the new town sign that had just been installed.
He said the gardens look great at the sign.

Chris also spoke about the marina, and how nice the docks are.
He stated the marina building could use some sprucing up.

Chris Wardius asked if Councilman Bob Bilicki had spoken to Irene Lewin regarding the green building on the corner of Main and Brooklyn. He was concerned about shingles blowing off the house and damaging nearby cars.
Councilman Bob Bilicki said he would speak with her tomorrow.

Mayor Charles Elliott spoke about the problem of geese on the carnival grounds.
They are on the tables and pooping everywhere.
Town Clerk said she had called the VA Dept. of Wildlife. They do not come into town and remove geese. They suggested blowing loud horns or putting up a large waving man to scare the geese.

II. Town Council Meeting

June 8th, 2023 minutes were reviewed.
Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to accept the minutes.
Councilman Bob Williams 2nd.
All agreed.

III. Review of Financial Report

Mayor Charles Elliot asked to review the town's financials for May 2023.
Councilman Bob Williams motioned to accept the Ports of Wachapreague financials.
Councilman Stephan Joseph 2nd the motion.
All agreed.

Mayor Charles Elliott asked to review the May 2023 marina financials.
Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to accept the marina financials for May 2023.
Councilman Steve Joseph 2nd the motion.
All agreed.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Maintenance

- Councilman Glenn Schagelin stated they were waiting for the mower.
Town Clerk Charlie Gibble said they have it at Pocomoke.
Councilman Glenn Schagelin said he would call the company.
Councilman Glenn Schagelin said Robert is working out fine.
Councilman Steve Joseph said JD is happy working with Robert.
The council talked about running the ad three more weeks.
Councilman Bob Bilicki motioned to run the ad for a grounds keeper for 3 more weeks.
Councilman Bob Williams 2nd the motion
All Agreed.

Vice Mayor Sandi Puchalski stated that Richie fixed the other mower and mowed Seaside Park for the Coast Guard change of command event held there.

B. Powell Park

Councilman Bob Williams stated that Powell Park would look much nicer if the guys would also weed whack the park. It would give the park a nicer, cleaner look.

C. Seaside Park

- Councilman Stephan Joseph said he is waiting for Don Motto to do clean up. He stated we are out of money and will have to wait until the new budget passes.

D. HRSD

Councilman Steve Joseph said nothing new to report. Everything is signed. We are just waiting on them.

E. Derelict Properties

Councilman Bob Bilicki said that Patricia Braggs property should be put back on the list.

Keeping up the front, cutting the grass and starting a new roof.

Councilman Bob Williams said the property on the corner of Pearl and Main should be on the list also.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that the back of John Cars backroom and front porch needs work.

He said this should be put on the derelict property list also.

Councilman Bob Williams said the planning commission should work on this ordinance.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel said she wasn't sure this was an ordinance that they would work on this.

Councilman Steve Joseph said he tried to talk to the people in the house next to Joe Although, the house next to Todd Winslet Patricia Braggs home. They didn't respond well. Councilman Steve Joseph said we need to have some teeth in our ordinances to enforce them.

Councilman Bob Bilicki suggested that we call the building inspector to check the homes out.

Councilman Bob Williams said Delphine's home should be on the list. He said there are holes in the cornice in the attic. Birds and squirrels are going in and out of the home.

Councilman Steve Joseph stated we can only do so much until we have enforceable ordinances.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel said she would speak to Jim Bell regarding this.

Councilman Bob Williams said the council was working on the ordinances and they were tabled because the planning commission said they were supposed to do the ordinance.

Mayor Charles Elliott and Councilman Bob Bilicki said they would work on the derelict properties together.

F. Marina

Nothing to report.

G. Tourism

Councilman Aileen Joeckel said they have had two meetings and they were beginning to renew the process of the business and tourism board. She said they have met twice with the Wachapreague Inn and The Island House. They are going to invite Charter boat taxis, Jim Bell, The General Store, The Art Gallery, Darryl Lilliston's Fish store and they would like VIMS to be a part of the group. They meet the first Tuesday of the month.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel spoke about a 16-foot Rock fish. She said she spoke with Gray's taxidermy. She would like to do a 16-foot flounder. He said they will get some numbers on it. The fish will need a cradle to store it in. It will take maintenance. She thought this would bring in tourists.

Another topic they are discussing is a LOVE sign in Wachapreague. They thought the L could be a white boot, the O could be a Ferris wheel, V could be fishing rods and E a bird.

They are also considering a new look in the light box at the southern welcome center.

Another idea is a new ad for the visitor guide. This is something else they are thinking about.

She said they are looking into implementing the ARPA Funding. There are three "instagrammers" and "u-tubers" that they are looking at. One is called Sunshine Soul. She has 288,000 followers. She travels with her dog. The town would comp her with what ever she needs. That is how she is paid.

The second one is a "U-Tuber". They are called One Fish Two Fish. It is a couple that just focuses on fishing.

The third place they are thinking about using is a photographer named Eric Fisher.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel said they are also looking into some TV stations. One being VA Found. She thought it would be nice if they did a show here. Another show is WHRO on PBS. A show on crabbing in Cape Charles was aired by them.

There is \$20,000 in grant money available for these projects. The grant must be spent on marketing.

H. Floodplain Adm/CRS

Councilman Bob Williams said he had a meeting with Raft. He sent the notes to the council members.

They are waiting for a response from Rob Duma as to the cost of redesigning how water will be taken out of town and the graphical area.

He said he needs to get together with Donald Hart regarding cleaning out the South ditch.

It makes it complicated to clean out because of the location and the grounds the ditch crosses.

Councilman Bob Bilicki thought the DEQ could possibly help with the ditch and drainage.

Councilman Bob Williams said they are just looking at the main drain line at this time.

Councilman Bob Bilicki thought we should work on the south drain line.

Councilman Bob Williams said they have never discussed the south or the north ditch.

They are just focusing on the main drain currently.

Councilman Bob Bilicki stated that we need advice on the cost so we can get a value of cost so we can apply for a grant.

He stated we need a plan regarding the three drains and prioritize what we need to do. Councilman Bob Bilicki said we need to get together with Rob Duma and talk about the overall impact of the main drain, south drain and the north drain and get a field report of what it will cost by the next meeting.

Councilman Bob Williams said I don't think I can get that together by next meeting. He stated the goal is to fix and get the money for the main drain first.

Councilman Steve Joseph said all we must do is come up with \$3,000,000. We did it for the sewer.

I. Town Beautification

Councilman Aillen Joeckel stated that everything looks very pretty. She said Anne Swick has a team working on the flowers. Councilman Aileen Joeckel asked Anne if she had anything to add.
Anne said that the box with flowers in by the sign will need the soil replaced at some point.

J. Safety and Security

Councilman Steve Joseph said there is a light out at the corner of Powellton and Brooklyn.

K. Historic District

Nothing to report.

L. Streets and Drainage

This was covered under Flood Plain/ADM CRS topic.

M. Planning Commission

Councilman Aileen Joeckel stated The Community Vision Session was held. She said approximately 20 people attended.
She stated you can see the report on the website. Councilman Aileen Joeckel reported the Greg Brittingham did a great job holding the meeting.
She also stated that Greg will be resigning from the planning commission. He had served on the commission to fill out another person’s term.
Reed Hall will be a new member of the planning commission.
She said they are always looking for more people to serve.

Councilman Aileen Joeckel had a paper for the mayor to sign regarding the STR, Air BnB’s ordinances and the special use permits exemptions that were just put into place.
She spoke about the procedure that needs to be followed to make these ordinances affected.
Arthur Mendez, the town’s zoning officer suggested that there be a check list of what is needed.

N. Community News

Councilman Bob Williams talked about the app called Next Door that Jim Bell informed him of.
Councilman Bob Williams said they are taking home made cakes for the cake booth.

Councilman Bob Bilicki inquired about the July 4th parade,
Councilman Steve Joseph said the parade will be July 3rd.
Councilman Bob Bilicki asked about how the Veterans banners project was going.
Town Clerk Charlie stated that she thought he had ten signed up with several others saying they want them also.

O. Adjournment

Councilman Glenn Schagelin Motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Councilman Stephen Joseph 2nd the motion.
All Agreed